

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A magnetic filter adapter for removing magnetically attractable particles from a fluid, comprising:

an adapter body comprising a perforated upper portion and a perforated lower portion, wherein said perforated upper portion and perforated lower portion form a chamber;

a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion, said perforated lower portion, and said chamber;

a removable hollow insert mounted inside said opening, extending through said perforated upper portion, said chamber, and said perforated lower portion, and providing a first threaded portion adapted to engage a threaded stud and a second threaded portion adapted to mount to a filter;

a magnet disposed within said chamber for removing metallic particles from said fluid; and

a magnet support for mounting said magnet in said chamber such that gaps for fluid flow exist adjacently between said magnet and said ~~upper-perforated upper~~ upper portion, and adjacently between said magnet and said ~~lower-perforated lower~~ lower portion, and adjacently between said magnet and said removable hollow insert.

2. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said magnet is in the shape of a ring.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises at least one sealing gasket.

5. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

6. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said perforated lower portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

7. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said fluid is oil.

8. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said fluid is transmission fluid.

9. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said fluid is hydraulic fluid.

Appl. No. : 10/032,215  
Filed : December 21, 2001

10. (currently amended) An adapter for removing metallic particles from a fluid, comprising:

a cylindrical adapter body comprising a perforated upper portion and a perforated lower portion forming a chamber;

a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion, said perforated lower portion, and said chamber;

a removable hollow insert mounted inside said opening, extending through said perforated upper portion, said chamber, and said perforated lower portion, and providing a first connection means adapted to engage a connection means on a fluid source and a second connection means adapted to mount to a filter;

a magnet disposed within said chamber for removing metallic particles from said fluid; and

a magnet support for mounting said magnet in said chamber such that gaps for fluid flow exist adjacently between said magnet and said ~~upper-perforated~~ upper portion, and adjacently between said magnet and said ~~lower-perforated~~ lower portion, and adjacently between said magnet and said removable hollow insert, and such that no portion of said magnet contacts said removable hollow insert.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises at least one sealing gasket.

13. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

14. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said perforated lower portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

15. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said fluid source is an automobile engine.

16. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said magnet is in the shape of a ring.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said magnet support is comprised of three pieces having notches corresponding to the thickness of said magnet.

19. (currently amended) A method of assembly of an adapter for removing metallic particles from a fluid, comprising;

installing a magnet holder on a magnet;

inserting said magnet holder and said magnet in a perforated lower portion of a housing of said adapter;

enclosing said magnet in said adapter by attaching a perforated upper portion of a housing of said adapter to said perforated lower portion, wherein said magnet adapter holder and said magnet are located in a chamber formed by said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion such that a gap for fluid flow exists adjacently between said magnet and said ~~upper-perforated support~~ upper portion and adjacently between said magnet and said ~~lower-perforated support~~ lower portion; and

inserting a hollow insert in a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion, said perforated lower portion, and said chamber, such that a gap for fluid flow exists adjacently between said magnet and said hollow insert and such that no portion of such magnet contacts said hollow insert.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, further comprising attaching a sealing gasket to said perforated upper portion.

Claims 21-29: canceled

30. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said magnet support comprises a plurality of magnet holders positioned along an inner periphery of said perforated lower portion.

31. (previously presented) A magnetic filter adapter for removing magnetically attractable particles from a fluid, comprising:

an adapter body comprising a perforated upper portion having a central opening of a first diameter, and a perforated lower portion having a central opening of a second diameter that is smaller than said first diameter;

a removable hollow insert mounted inside said central openings, extending through said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion, and providing a first threaded portion adapted to engage a threaded stud and a second threaded portion adapted to mount to a filter, wherein said first threaded portion has an outer diameter that is smaller than said first diameter and larger than said second diameter, wherein said

Appl. No. : 10/032,215  
Filed : December 21, 2001

second threaded portion has an outer diameter that is smaller than said second diameter, and wherein said first threaded portion is received within the central opening of the perforated upper portion and said second threaded portion is received within the central opening of the lower perforated portion; and

a magnet disposed within said adapter body for removing metallic particles from said fluid.

32. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 31, wherein said magnet is in the shape of a ring.

33. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 32, comprising a ring support for mounting said magnet to said adapter body such that a gap exists between said magnet and said perforated upper portion.

34. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 33, wherein said ring support comprises a plurality of magnet holders positioned along an inner periphery of said perforated lower portion.

35. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 31, wherein said upper portion comprises at least one sealing gasket.

36. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 31, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

37. (previously presented) The adapter of Claim 31, wherein said perforated lower portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.